

T H E

## Choice of a WIFE, by CHEESE.

BY CAPT. THOMPSON.

THERE liv'd in York, an age ago,  
A man whose name was Pimlico;  
He lov'd three sisters passing well;  
But which the best he cou'd not tell.  
These sisters three, divinely fair,  
Shew'd Pimlico their tend'rest care:  
For each was elegantly bred,  
And all were much inclin'd to wed;  
And all made Pimlico their choice,  
And prais'd him with their sweetest voice.

Young Pym, the gallant and the gay,  
Like as divided 'tween the hay,  
At last resolv'd to gain his ease,  
And chuse his wife, by eating Cheese.  
He wrote this card, and seal'd it up,  
And said, with them that night he'd sup;  
Begg'd that there might only be  
Good Cheshire Cheese, and but them three;  
He was resolv'd to crown his life,  
And by that means to fix his wife.  
The girls were pleas'd at his conceit;  
Each dress'd herself divinely neat;  
With faces full of peace and plenty,  
Blooming roses under twenty;  
For surely Nancy, Betty, Sally,  
Were sweet as lillies of the valley.  
But singly, surely buxom Bet  
Was like new-hay and minionet;  
But each surpass'd a poet's fancy,  
For that, of truth, was said of Nancy:

And as for Sal, she was a Dona,  
As fair as those of old Crotona,\*  
Who to Apelles lent their faces,  
To make up Madam Helen's graces.

To those, the gay, divided Pym,  
Came elegantly smart and trim;  
When every smiling maiden, certain,  
Cut of the Cheese, to prove her fortune,  
Nancy, at once, nor fearing—caring,  
To shew her saving, eat the paring;  
And Bet, to shew her gen'rous mind,  
She cut, and threw away the rhind;  
While prudent Sarah, sure to please,  
Like a clean maiden, scrap'd her Cheese.

This done, young Pimlico reply'd,  
" Sally I now declare my bride;  
" With Nan I can't my welfare put,  
" For she has prov'd a dirty slut:  
" And Betsy, who has par'd the rhind,  
" Would give my fortune to the wind.  
" Sally the happy medium chose,  
" And I with Sarah will repose;  
" She's prudent, cleanly; and the man  
" Who fixes on a nuptial plan,  
" Can never err, if he will choose  
" A wife by Cheese—before he ties the noose."

\* Apelles, from five beautiful virgins of  
Crotona, drew his Helen of Troy, the adul-  
terous wife of Menelaus.